

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method ~~(60)~~ for identifying an electrode type in an automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ comprising the steps of:
providing ~~(61)~~ a shaped conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ on an automatic external defibrillator electrode package ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein; and
coupling ~~(62)~~ one or more pins ~~(42a-d)~~ to the shaped conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ when the automatic external defibrillator electrode package ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ is coupled to the defibrillator ~~(50)~~.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
sensing ~~(63)~~ a shape of the shaped conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ with the one or more pins ~~(42a-d)~~ to ascertain the type of electrode contained therein.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
selecting ~~(64)~~ an operating mode for the automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ based on the shape of the shaped conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~.

4. (currently amended) The method ~~(60)~~ according to claim 2, wherein said sensing step further comprises redundantly sensing two or more portions of said shape of the shaped conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ with two or more pins to ascertain the type of electrode contained therein.

5. (currently amended) An electrode package ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ for an automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ comprising:
a cartridge ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ for containing one or more electrodes of a particular type; and
a shaped conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ disposed on the cartridge ~~(10; 20; 30)~~, said shaped conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ uniquely identifying the particular type of electrode contained therein via the shape of said shaped label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~.

6. (currently amended) An automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ comprising:
one or more electrode cartridges ~~(10; 20; 30)~~, each containing one or more electrodes of a particular type; and
one or more shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33)~~, each disposed on one of the one or more electrode cartridges ~~(10; 20; 30)~~, each of said one or more shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ uniquely identifying a particular type of electrode contained therein based on the shape of said shaped label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~.

7. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ according to claim 6, further comprising:
an electrode cartridge receptacle ~~(40)~~ to accept each of the one or more electrode cartridges ~~(10; 20; 30)~~, said electrode cartridge receptacle ~~(40)~~ including one or more sensing pins ~~(42a-d)~~ to couple in a unique pattern to the one or more shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ when each of the one or more electrode cartridges ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle ~~(40)~~.

8. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ according to claim 7, wherein said sensing pins ~~(42a-d)~~ are disposed to couple in a unique pattern to two or more portions of each of said shaped conductive labels ~~(13;23;33)~~ to redundantly identify said particular type of electrode.

9. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator (50) according to claim 7, further comprising:
a processor ~~(51)~~ establishing a mode of operation of the automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ based on the particular one of the one or more shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33; 53)~~ sensed by the one or more sensing pins ~~(42a-d)~~.

10. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ according to claim 7, wherein each of the one or more sensing pins ~~(42a-d)~~ comprises a spring-loaded pin to maintain said each sensing pin in electrical contact with the one or more shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33; 53)~~ when each of the one or more electrode cartridges ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle ~~(40)~~.

11. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ according to claim 7, wherein each of the one or more shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33; 53)~~ comprises a gold-plated metal.

12. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ according to claim 9, wherein each of the one or more shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33; 53)~~ comprises a unique shape.

13. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ according to claim 12, wherein the one or more sensing pins ~~(42a-d)~~ sense the unique shape of the one or more shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33; 53)~~ when each of the one or more electrode cartridges ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle ~~(40)~~.

14. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ according to claim 13, wherein the processor ~~(51)~~ establishes a mode of operation of the automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ based on the sensed shape of the conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33; 53)~~.

15. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ according to claim 7, wherein each of the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridges ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ includes two contacts ~~(11, 12)~~ for electrically connecting patient electrodes to the automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ and the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridge receptacle ~~(40)~~ includes two contacts ~~(41, 43)~~ for electrically connecting the automatic external defibrillator to the two contacts ~~(11, 12)~~ on each of the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridges ~~(10; 20; 30)~~, and said two contacts ~~(41, 43)~~ on the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridge receptacle ~~(40)~~ are different than said one or more sensing pins ~~(42a-d)~~.

16. (currently amended) A method ~~(60)~~ for identifying an electrode type in an automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ comprising the steps of:
providing ~~(61)~~ a first conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ on a first type of an automatic external defibrillator electrode package ~~(10; 20; 30)~~, said first conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ having a first shape that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein; and

providing ~~(61)~~ a second conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ on a second type of an automatic external defibrillator electrode package ~~(10; 20; 30)~~, said second conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ having a second shape that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein.

17. (currently amended) The method ~~(60)~~ according to claim 16, further comprising the step of: coupling ~~(62)~~ one or more pins to the first or second conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ when the automatic external defibrillator electrode package ~~(10; 20; 30)~~ on which the first or second conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~, respectively, is disposed is coupled to the defibrillator ~~(50)~~.

18. (currently amended) The method ~~(60)~~ according to claim 17, wherein the one or more pins ~~(42a-d)~~ comprise one or more spring-loaded pins.

19. (currently amended) The method ~~(60)~~ according to claim 17, further comprising the step of: sensing ~~(63)~~ a shape of the shaped conductive label ~~(13; 23; 33)~~ with the one or more pins to ascertain a type of electrode contained therein.

20. (currently amended) The method ~~(60)~~ according to claim 16, further comprising the step of: selecting ~~(64)~~ an operating mode for the automatic external defibrillator ~~(50)~~ based on the shape of the first and second shaped conductive labels ~~(13; 23; 33)~~.